

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Zoning By-Laws as shown below, or take any other action relative thereto:

Article IX. Signs

§ 175-56. Administration.

A PURPOSE

(1) Promote the safety, comfort and well-being of the users of the streets, roads and highways in the Town of Abington

(2) Reduce distractions and obstructions from signs which would adversely affect traffic safety, and to alleviate hazards caused by signs projecting over or encroaching upon public ways.

(3) Discourage excessive visual competition in signage and ensure that signs aid orientation and adequately identify uses and activities to the public.

(4) Preserve or enhance Town character by requiring new and replacement signage which is: Creative and distinctive; compatible with the surroundings; appropriate to the type of activity to which it pertains; expressive of the identity of individual proprietors or of the community as a whole.

(5) Appropriately sized in its context, so as to be easily readable.

(6) To encourage compatibility and harmony with surrounding buildings, land and land uses

B POWERS AND DUTIES OF PERSONNEL.

The Inspector of Buildings is hereby authorized and directed to interpret, administer and enforce this Section.

C APPLICABILITY.

The standards and regulations of this Section shall apply to all signs erected, maintained, or replaced in any district within the corporate limits of the Town of Abington.

D SIGN PERMITS.

1. Sign Permit Required. Unless a Sign Permit is specifically not required by the standards of this Section, it shall be unlawful for any person to erect or replace a sign without first having obtained a Sign Permit. Refer to Table [###-##] to determine if a Sign Permit is required for a specific sign type.

2. Application Submittal and Content. When required by this Section, Sign Permit applications shall be filed in the office of the Inspector of Buildings upon forms furnished by that office. The submittal of the following information, material and fees shall constitute a complete application:

a. The application shall describe and set forth the following:

- i. The type and purpose of the sign(s) as defined in this Section (i.e. wall sign, window sign, etc.);
- ii. Dimensions and area of the sign(s), including letter height and aggregate sign area if more than one (1) sign and/or sign face;
- iii. Materials and colors of the sign(s);
- iv. Type of illumination;
- v. Number, type and area of existing signs;
- vi. Height of sign;
- vii. The zoning district in which the subject property is located;
- viii. The Business Certificate ID number, if a non-residential use;
- ix. The name, address, telephone number and signature of the business owner;
- x. The name, address, telephone number and signature of the owner of the property upon which the sign is to be located. The owner's agent may sign if an authorization letter from the property owner is submitted; and
- xi. The name, address, and telephone number of the contractor.

b. The following attachments, and necessary copies as required by the Inspector of Buildings, shall be submitted:

- i. For standing signs, a location plan or survey showing the property upon which the subject sign is to be located, the proposed location of the subject sign on the property, the distance of the proposed sign from the subject property's boundaries, and all existing structures or buildings on the subject property. Such plan shall be to a legible engineer's scale;
- ii. For all signs, dimensioned drawings of the sign including lettering, borders, proposed color scheme, height and other design elements. Such drawings shall be to a legible architect's scale;
- iii. For wall, awning and window signs, a dimensioned drawing or photograph of the façade indicating the placement of the signs, area of the façade of the business

establishment, and height of the sign. Such drawings shall be to a legible architect's scale;

iv. Color photographs of the property including all buildings and the proposed sign location; and

v. For all signs, a copy of a letter from the Planning Director indicating the recommendation of the Design Review Board or, for signs requiring a Special Permit, a copy of a letter from the Zoning Board of Appeals indicating approval of the Special Permit.

c. Appropriate fees, as set from time to time by the Board of Selectmen and/or the Planning Board, shall be paid.

3. Processing Time – Application Review. The Town shall process all complete and accurate Sign Permit applications within thirty (30) days of the Inspector of Buildings' actual receipt of a complete and accurate application and upon remittance of the appropriate fee.

4. Application Rejection. The Inspector of Buildings shall reject any application that is incomplete that contains false material statements or omissions, or that is for a sign which would violate any standard within this Section within thirty (30) business days of receipt of said application.

5. Resubmission. A rejected application later resubmitted in conformity with this Section shall be deemed to have been submitted on the date of resubmission, instead of the original submission date. An application which is resubmitted shall meet all the standards for an original application.

6. Permit Revocation. Should it be determined that a Sign Permit was issued in error and/or pursuant to an application containing a false material statement or omission, or for a sign not meeting the standards of this Section, the Inspector of Buildings shall revoke said permit and the subject sign shall be immediately removed.

7. Expiration Date. A Sign Permit shall become null and void if the sign for which the permit was issued has not been installed and completed within six (6) months after the date of issuance; provided, however, that where an applicant can demonstrate that a commercial entity was timely engaged to construct the permitted sign, but the fabrication has not yet been completed, one (1) ninety (90) day extension may be granted by the Inspector of Buildings. No refunds shall be made for a permit after the permit is issued. If later an individual desires to erect a sign at the same location, a new application for the sign must be processed and another fee paid in accordance with the fee schedule applicable at such time.

D DEFINITIONS

Abandoned Sign - Any sign associated with a non-seasonal use which has ceased operations for sixty (60) or more days and/or contains or exhibits broken panels, visible rust, visible rot, damaged support structures, or missing letters or which is otherwise dilapidated, unsightly, or unkempt.

Address Sign - A sign indicating the numerical location, or numerical and street location, of a particular property.

Animated Sign - Any sign, or part of a sign, that uses any movement or change of lighting or color to depict action or create a special effect or scene.

Audible Sign - Any sign which emits a sound which is audible or emits a signal which can be converted into audible sounds, whether by radio or other means.

Awning - Any device, fixed or retractable, of any material, which extends over or otherwise covers a sidewalk, courtyard, walkway, eating area, driveway, or other area or space whether that area or space is intended for pedestrians, vehicles or other purposes. Also known as a “canopy.”

Awning Sign - Any sign that is a part of, attached to, or displayed on an awning, canopy or other fabric, plastic or structural protective cover over a door, entrance, window, or outdoor service area.

Banner - A sign placed above or across a public or private street or way with the prior written permission of the Building Inspector or ZBA shall determine the terms and conditions for the use of such sign, including, but not limited to, dimensional and length of time of allowances. Neither flags nor awning signs are considered banners.

Beacon - Any light with one or more beams directed into the atmosphere or directed at one or more points not on the same lot as the light source; also, any light with one or more beams that rotate or move.

Billboard - A freestanding sign larger than forty (40) square feet in gross area, or a wallsign covering more than ten percent (10%) of the area to which is is affixed; exception: shopping mall sign.

Building Sign - Any sign attached to any part of a building, as contrasted to a ground sign.

Business Establishment - Any non-residential use, whether or not consisting of one (1) or more buildings. In a building with more than one (1) non-residential tenant, each tenant shall constitute a separate business establishment.

Changeable Copy - Any lights, lettering, or images that may be electronically or manually changed to form a sign message or messages.

Commercial Message - Any sign wording, logo, or other representation that, directly or indirectly, names, advertises, or calls attention to a business, product, service, or other commercial activity.

Community Services: - Churches, schools, public libraries, public museums, parish houses, hospitals, sanatoria, educational, research and philanthropic institutions, cemeteries; parks, playgrounds, fire and police stations, armories, beaches, Town forests, watersheds, water towers and reservoirs, and recreation buildings; passenger stations, Town wharves and landings.

Directional Signs - Any sign limited solely to directing both vehicular and pedestrian traffic within or setting out restrictions on the use of parking areas.

Directory Sign - A sign which may be utilized by multiple business establishments occupying a single building with a shared public entrance.

Entrance - A means of accessing a building. For the purpose of regulating signage the following are types of entrances:

- a. Public Entrance - An entrance to a single business establishment available for use by the general public during hours of operation.
- b. Principal Entrance - The primary public entrance to a single business establishment.
- c. Secondary Entrance - A public entrance to a single business establishment that is additional to the principal entrance.
- d. Shared Public Entrance - A common public entrance that provides access to multiple business establishments but does not directly access any single business establishment.

Externally Illuminated Sign - A sign illuminated by an external light source directed solely toward such sign.

Facade of the Business Establishment - That portion of the building wall facing a street or containing a public entrance, which corresponds to the height and width of the interior space rented or owned by the tenant of the business establishment.

Flag - Any fabric or bunting containing colors, patterns, or symbols used as a symbol of a government or other entity or organization.

Flashing Sign - A sign whose illumination is not kept constant in intensity at all times when in use, and which exhibits changes in light, color, direction or animation. A sign whose illumination changes to indicate the date, time and temperature will not be considered a "flashing sign."

Freestanding Sign: -A self-supporting sign not attached to any building, wall or fence, but in a fixed location. This does not include movable, portable, mobile or trailer-type signs.

Gasoline Filling Station - A business engaged, as a primary purpose, in the retail dispensing of motor vehicle fuels to the public.

Ground Sign - Any sign, supported by structures or supports that are placed on or anchored in the ground, independent from any building or other structure.

Illuminate Sign: - Any sign lit by electrical bulbs, fluorescent lights or neon tubes. Neon tubes used as abstract, graphic, decorative or architectural elements shall be considered to constitute an illuminated sign. Christmas lighting shall not be deemed to be "illuminated signs."

Industrial Building: - A building occupied and used primarily for the purpose of manufacturing or warehousing and which may also include a limited amount of office space used in conjunction with the industrial operations.

Inspector of Buildings - The Building Commissioner for the Town of Abington, or his or her designee for a particular purpose.

Institutional Use - For the purpose of this Section, shall mean any religious or educational use.

Internally Illuminated Sign - A sign illuminated by an internal light source, utilizing translucent panels, canvas or other fabric, letters, devices or other similar components to create an image by allowing light to pass through. A “Reverse Lit” sign is not an internally illuminated sign.

Lot - An area of land in single ownership with definite boundaries, established by a recorded plan or deed, including a lot created by combining several previously recorded lots, and used or available for use as a site of one (1) or more buildings or for any other purpose.

Movable, Portable or Mobile Sign: - A sign capable of being readily moved or relocated, including portable signs mounted on, attached to or painted on a chassis and wheels, a truck, trailer or other vehicle if placed at a location especially prepared for display through special lighting or elevation, or in the case of commercial vehicles having lettering, logos or similar devices, if such vehicles are placed at a location more prominent than a feasible alternative on the site, or any sign supported by legs; also signs converted to A- or T-frames, menu and sandwich board signs, balloons used as signs and umbrellas used for advertising.

Moving Sign - Any and every sign any part of which moves, is designed to move, or to be moved, by any means.

Multi-Faced Sign - Any sign consisting of more than one (1) sign face.

Multiple or Ladder Signs: - A freestanding sign with a vertical support(s), with two (2) or more horizontal crosspiece signs, or two (2) or more hanging horizontal signs, serving as individual signs for identification or advertising purposes.

Non-Conforming Sign - Any sign legally erected prior to the adoption of this section, or any amendment thereof, which does not conform to the requirements of this section or such future amendments.

Normal Grade - The lower of 1) existing grade prior to construction or 2) the newly established grade after construction, exclusive of any filling, berming, mounding, or excavating solely for the purpose of locating the sign.

Obscene Matter - As defined in M.G.L. Chapter 272, § 31.

Off-premises Sign: - Any sign which is not on the premises of the business, including a billboard or movable sign.

On-premises Sign: - Any sign that advertises, calls attention to or identifies the occupant of the premises on which the sign is maintained, or the business transacted thereon, or advertises the property itself or any part thereof as for sale or rent.

Out-of-Store Marketing Device - An out-of-store marketing device is any facility or equipment which is located outside of a primary building on a site zoned for non-residential uses, which is used for the primary purpose of providing a product or service without the owner’s or agent’s immediate presence, and which is manufactured to include a color, form, graphic, illumination, symbol, and/or writing thereon to communicate information regarding the product or service provided thereby to the public. Examples of out-of-store marketing devices include: fuel pumps, bank ATM units, vending machines, newspaper racks, drink machines, ice boxes, and phone booths.

Open Face - A type of sign and/or sign illumination utilizing an open or clear plastic sign face, allowing the light source to be visible.

Pennant - Any lightweight plastic, fabric, or other material, whether or not containing a message of any kind, suspended from a rope, wire, or string, usually in a series, designed to move in the wind. Also known and referred to as a streamer.

Permanent Sign - Any sign of a type and construction as not to be easily or readily removed, which, when installed, is intended for permanent use. Types of permanent signs include, but are not limited to, standing signs, wall signs, awning signs, and window signs.

Person - A natural or legal person, including a partnership, trust, corporation or similar entity.

Political Signs - A sign designated to influence the action of voters for the passage or defeat of a measure, or the election of a candidate to a public office at a national, state or other election.

Principal Building - The building in which the principal use of the lot is conducted. Non-residential lots with multiple principal uses may have multiple principal buildings, but storage buildings, garages, and other structures with clearly accessory uses shall not be considered principal buildings.

Projecting Sign - A type of wall sign which is perpendicular to the wall to which it is attached and projects away from such wall.

Public Services Sign - A sign located for the purpose of public information, providing directions towards or indication of a use not readily visible from the street (e.g., rest rooms, telephone, etc.); signs prohibiting trespass, hunting and the like, and signs warning of danger, such as "high voltage"; street name signs, and signs erected by the Town, County or commonwealth for the direction and control of traffic.

Residential Zones - Include R-20, R-30 and R-40 unless otherwise noted.

Reverse Lit - A type of sign and/or sign illumination using an opaque face and sides, generally constructed of aluminum, and a clear polycarbonate back or no back. Light does not pass through the face of the sign, but rather comes out of the back of the sign and is cast off the wall behind the sign, thereby creating a silhouette of the outline of the sign face. Also known and referred to as "Reverse Back Lit", "Halo", or "Halo Lit" sign or sign illumination.

Roof Sign - Any sign erected and constructed above, or projecting above, the lowest point of the eave or the top of a parapet wall of any building, or which is painted or otherwise attached or affixed to a roof.

Shopping Center - A group of three (3) or more separate business buildings or five (5) or more stores, shops and/or service centers, built as a plaza, Village or office complex, located on one (1) lot.

Sign - Any device, fixture, placard, or structure affixed to, supported by, or suspended by a stationary object, building or the ground that uses any color, form, graphic, illumination, symbol, or writing to communicate information of any kind to the public.

Sign Face - That part of a sign that is or can be used for the purpose of advertising, identification or conveying a message.

Sign Permit - A permit issued by the Inspector of Buildings allowing a sign to be installed on a piece of property.

Standard Informational Sign - A sign with no one side consisting of an area greater than six (6) square feet, with a sign face made for short term use, containing no reflecting elements, flags, or projections and which, when erect, stands at a height not greater than six (6) feet. Sandwich board signs shall be considered to be a type of standard informational sign.

Standing Sign - A permanent sign erected on or affixed to the ground and not attached to a building.

Temporary Sign - Any and every sign which by its design and/or use is temporary in nature and/or is not permanently mounted. Neither flags nor awning signs are considered temporary signs. A sign intended to be used for a period of no more than thirty (30) days.

Wall Area: - The sum of the gross vertical area, in square feet, of the pertinent wall measured from the exterior faces of the wall, which shall include doors and windows therein. A parapet (that part of a wall that extends above the roof level) shall not be included in the calculations for "wall area."

Wall Sign: - Any sign which is painted on, incorporated into or affixed parallel to the wall of a building, and which extends not more than six (6) inches from the surface of that building.

Window Sign: - A sign affixed to the surface of a window (inside or outside) or displayed behind a window so as to attract attention from the outside. A sign shall be deemed a "window sign" if it is within the display or show case of the window, or within four (4) feet of the inside surface of a window through which it is intended to be viewed.

§ 175-57. General regulations.

- A. All signs shall be non-animated and non-flashing. Exceptions may be permitted for short-term displays such as in fairs, carnivals, parades, and seasonal celebrations not to exceed 30 days each year.
- B. In all zoning districts, for safety reasons, signs or their illumination shall not by reason of their location, shape, size, or color interfere with traffic, sight lines or be confused with or obstruct the view or effectiveness of any official traffic sign, traffic signal or traffic marking.
- C. No sign shall obstruct visibility in such a way as to constitute a hazard to the safety of persons traveling upon a public way.
- D. No commercial sign shall be affixed upon or painted upon any rock, tree, or utility pole within the Town of Abington.
- E. Signs may be placed along traveled ways for the purpose of indicating directions to business or institutional facilities by special permit of the Board of Appeals which shall, in addition to other requirements for the granting of special permits, allow such signs only if they are reasonably needed for directional purposes.
- F. Signs may be no higher than 25 feet or the height of the associated building whichever is greater.

G. Private signs shall not project over public streets and no more than four feet over public walks. No signs whether permanent or temporary shall be erected or affixed to any object in a public right-of-way.

H. All signs, whether erected before or after the effective date of this bylaw, shall be maintained in a safe condition to the satisfaction of the Building Inspector.

§ 175-58. Residential districts. (R-20, R-30, R-40, TOD, CBD and WPD)

In all residential districts, signs may be permitted as follows:

A. One sign displaying the street number or name of the occupant on premises, or both, not exceeding two square feet in area. Such sign may be attached to a building or may be on a rod or post not more than six feet high and not less than three feet from the street line. Such sign may include identification of an accessory studio or professional office in the dwelling or on the premises, or may identify other permitted accessory uses, including customary home occupations.

B. One bulletin or announcement board or identification sign for a permitted nonresidential building or use, not more than 10 square feet signboard area. For churches and institutions, membership clubs, funeral establishments, hospitals, other places of public assembly, community facilities or public utilities, one bulletin or announcement board or identification sign is permitted on each building.

C. A sign bearing the name of a subdivision or multi-family housing development located on the premises at the street entrance, limited to announcing the name of the subdivision or multi-family housing development. Such a sign shall not exceed 20 square feet in area.

D. No sign or advertising device shall be illuminated after 11:00 p.m. except as required for public safety or public buildings such as police and fire departments, hospitals, etc or as permit allows.

E. Temporary Sign: A sign which is associated with an activity of a temporary nature or a sign which temporarily identifies an activity of a permanent nature. Temporary signs are hereby classified into the following categories:

a. Sale or Rent Sign — A sign which displays the word "sale" or "rent" and indicates the name of the individual, business or corporate entity offering the premises for sale or rent.

b. Construction Sign — A sign which identifies the owner, contractor, designer and/or engineer associated with a project under construction and on site. All such signs shall be removed upon completion of construction.

c. Special Event Sign — Temporary sign for special events such as fairs, carnivals and holiday celebrations, subject to the conditions of a permit for a period not to exceed one month.

d. Political sign — see § 175-60 (E)

e. Mobile or Portable Sign — A freestanding sign with a mobile structural support, such as signs on trailers and sandwich board signs, to be allowed by zoning permit only in place of an otherwise allowed freestanding sign, not to exceed the area 30 square feet. A mobile sign is subject to special permit and conditions imposed by Special Event Sign, (E)(c) of this section.

f. Special Sale Sign — Any non-identification sign used to advertise a sale or special event only.

F. Prohibited Signs

- a. Any sign not expressly permitted or exempted under this Section, including, without limitation, an “A”-shaped or “V”-shaped sign, a trailer sign and a billboard.
- b. Flashing, moving or animated signs or signs designed to attract attention by a change in light intensity or by repeated motion, which such change or motion is generated by or internal to the sign itself.
- c. Internally illuminated signs.
- d. Non-accessory signs promoting commercial activities are prohibited; non-accessory signs promoting non-commercial activities are permitted so long as they comply with the requirements of this Section.
- e. Audible signs.
- f. Roof signs
- g. Signs in the right of way, other than those belonging to a government, public service agency, or railroad.
- h. Promotional beacons, laser lights or images.
- i. Signs which depict obscene matter or are considered obscene matter, as defined in M.G.L. Chapter 272, § 31.
- j. Signs which advertise an activity which is illegal under federal, state or local laws.
- k. Signs not in good repair, in violation of codes, or containing or exhibiting broken panels, visible rust, visible rot, damaged support structures, or missing letters.
- l. Abandoned signs, identifying abandoned or discontinued business. Such signs shall be removed within sixty (60) days following the abandonment or discontinuance as ordered by the Inspector of Buildings.
- m. Imitation traffic signs, signs which contain or are an imitation of an official traffic sign or signal or contain the words “stop,” “go,” “slow,” “caution,” “warning,” or similar words in such a manner as to resemble official traffic control signs.
- n. Pennants or feather signs.

For the purposes of this Section, fund-raising activities by charitable organizations shall not be considered commercial activities.

- i. No sign shall be erected at or near the intersection of any streets, or of a street and driveway, in such manner as to obstruct free and clear vision, or be erected at any location where, by reason of the position, shape, color, illumination or wording, the sign may interfere with, obstruct the view of or be confused with, any authorized traffic sign, signal or device or otherwise constitute a hazard to pedestrian or vehicular traffic because of intensity or direction of illumination.

§ 175-59. Commercial and industrial districts. (GC, HC, I, TB and MUPDD) Signs and/or advertising devices are permitted only as follows: A As permitted in residential districts.

B. One sign paralleling the street and attached flat to the facade of the establishment advertised as long as such sign does not exceed one square foot in area for each horizontal foot of building frontage and as long as such sign does not project more than 12 inches perpendicularly from the facade.

(1) Open lot businesses, such as auto sales, in which the surrounding unenclosed property serves as a major display area for a relatively small building, may base such sign area on lot frontage such that the sign area does not exceed one square foot per foot of lot frontage, but not to exceed 32 square feet for each 100 feet of frontage; or

(2) One sign not to exceed 40 square feet in area on either side, perpendicular to the associated street or sidewalk and located immediately adjacent to or over the entrance to the store or business. Such sign shall not project more than five feet from the face of the building. If such establishment maintains a parking facility, this sign may be free-standing immediately adjacent to the parking lot entrance provided it does not obstruct sight lines.

C. Iconic or symbolic signs such as barber poles, clocks, etc., that carry no printed advertising and whose cross sectional area does not exceed 15 square feet may be displayed in addition to those heretofore described.

D. Stores or businesses sharing common private parking facilities such as shopping centers may cooperatively display one ladder sign next to the public way not to exceed 100 square feet in area. Such sign shall be located adjacent to the parking entrance, shall be no taller than 25 feet nor lower than eight feet from the ground if sign is placed within traffic sight line. Signs placed out of traffic sight lines may be placed on ground level but may not exceed [xxx feet high] but shall not exceed the height of the roofline. A directory of participating stores or businesses may be associated with such sign, each store or business to be allotted not more than four square feet of space.

E. Where a structure is set back at least 30 feet from the curb line, a free-standing sign of an area not in excess of 32 square feet on each side may be placed in such a manner that the edge of the sign is not less than 10 feet from the lot line and not higher than 25 feet nor lower than eight feet from the ground if sign is placed within traffic sight line. Signs placed out of traffic sight lines may be placed on ground level but may not exceed [xxx feet high] but shall not exceed the height of the roofline.

F. There shall not be more than two exterior signs for each store or business excluding exit and entrance signs.

G. Electronic signs by special permit. Meets conditions of § 175-59 A, B and F of this section in addition to the following:

a. Is part of a non-temporary, freestanding or fascia sign;

b. Limits the change to a complete message to one change not more than per minute;

- c. Does not incorporate any form scrolling, fading, movement of any kind as part of the change of message;
- d. Does not incorporate any form of animation, moving letters, flashing images or flashing lights;
- e. Does not incorporate any form of chasing borders or animation of any kind in to the sign or message;
- f. Does not incorporate live or recorded video feed;
- g. Does not incorporate sound;
- h. Illuminated during hours of business operation;
- i. Auto dimming to external ambient light conditions.

§ 175-60. Special signs.

The following signs are exempt from the requirements of Article IX:

- A. Interior window displays or signs.
- B. A community bulletin board for the purpose of displaying notices such as public events, schedules and personal notices. Such bulletin boards are not to be used for the purposes named in § 175-58B. Bulletin boards may be 10 square feet on each side.
- C. Gasoline filling stations and garages may divide the one architectural sign affixed to the front wall of the building to which they are entitled as herein above provided into separate signs affixed to and parallel to such wall and indicating the separate operations or departments of the business. In addition, one sign standing or otherwise indicating the company whose gasoline is being sold and the price of gasoline being sold may be erected of such type, in such location, and in such manner as is otherwise permitted. The standard type of gasoline pump bearing thereon in usual size and form the name of the type of gasoline and the price thereof shall not be deemed to be in violation of this bylaw. Temporary or moveable signs of any and every type are specifically prohibited. Exempt are signs required by either Federal, State or local statute.
- D. A memorial sign or tablet indicating the name of a building or the date of its erection.
- E. A temporary political sign for elections, ballot questions, warrant articles or other political or legislative activity. Maximum size shall not exceed 6 square feet. Political advertising relating to an election except that such signs shall not be placed on public property and shall be removed within 48 hours of said election. Political signs in excess of the limits imposed may be erected by special permit of the Board of Appeals, provided that the Board of Appeals finds that such size is the minimum required to inform the public without endangering the public's safety.

BY THE PLANNING BOARD